

## Message Text

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64

ORIGIN EB-02

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUEHMOL/AMCONSUL LENINGRAD IMMEDIATE 2173

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 183981

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 183981 ACTION MOSCOW 04 AUG 75

QUOTE

UNCLAS STATE 183981

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, OCLR, UR

SUBJECT: TOURIST VISIT, ATLANTA SKYLARKS AIR TRAVEL CLUB

1. ATLANTA SKYLARKS AIR TRAVEL CLUB, INC HAS ASKED DEPT ASSISTANCE IN SALVAGING ARRANGEMENTS FOR CLUB TOUR TO LENINGRAD. ORIGINAL PLAN WAS FOR 4-DAY STAY IN LENINGRAD. SKYLARKS APPLIED TO INTOURIST THROUGH AN AGENT FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS. INTOURIST QUOTED PRICES IN MESSAGE DTG 23/4 1058, LEADING SKYLARKS BELIEVE THAT CONFIRMATION WILL BE SENT LATER. SKYLARKS PROPOSED ALTERNATIVELY TO VISIT MOSCOW OR KIEV.

2. SKYLARKS WERE ADVISED ON JULY 31 THAT NO HOTEL SPACE FOR ANY VISIT COULD BE CONFIRMED. THIS WOULD CAUSE COLLAPSE OF ALL OF GROUP'S OTHER PLANS.

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3. SKYLARKS NOW PROPOSE TO ATTEMPT TO SALVAGE TRIP BY STAYING IN HELSINKI, FLYING EARLY ON AUGUST 14 IN CLUB'S BOEING 720 FROM HELSINKI TO LENINGRAD, ARRIVING APPROXIMATELY 9:00 LOCAL. CLUB WOULD PROPOSE DAY TOURS OF LENINGRAD, WITH DEPARTURE APPROXIMATELY 10:00 PM FOR HELSINKI. DUE TO PORT OF ENTRY REQUIREMENT MOSCOW ACCEPTABLE TO SKYLARKS VICE LENINGRAD.

4. CANCELLATION OF CLUB'S PLANS WILL CAUSE CONSIDERABLE BAD FEELING, WHETHER OR NOT BASED ON ANY INTOURIST COMMITMENT. CONVERSELY, TOUR COULD PROVIDE NOVEL WAY FOR INTOURIST TO IMPRESS THIS GROUP, AND OTHER POTENTIAL TOURISTS.

5. AIRCRAFT BOEING 720-022, US REGISTRY N-7228U. OWNER-SHIP: INDEPENDENT AIR, INC., ATLANTA, GEORGIA.  
FLIGHT CREW: CAPTAIN: JOHN SOMERFIELD  
FIR TOFF JERRY BATTEHOUSE  
SECOND OFF: JOHN ZIMMERMAN  
NAVIGATOR: HARRY MAUGANS.

3 FLIGHT ATTENDANTS  
113 PASSENGERS  
ALL ARE AMCITS.  
SKYLARKS WOULD PICK UP ESCORT CREW IN HELSINKI.  
ACFT HAS FOLLOWING NAV EQUIPMENT:  
DUAL VOR, DUAL ADF, DUAL DME, TRANSPONDER, DUAL VHF, DUAL HF, LORAN,

FLIGHT PLAN-DEPART HELSINKI 140800Z AIRWAY R-1 TO EFES FIR, DIRECT TO LENINGRAD  
ARRIVE LENINGRAD 140850Z  
DEPART LENINGRAD 142200Z  
ARRIVE HELSINKI 14Z300Z  
SKYLARKS WILL FOLLOW ANY OTHER ROUTE WHICH SOVIET AUTHORITIES MIGHT REQUIRE.

6. ACTION: SKYLARKS WOULD NEED: (1) APPROVAL FOR DAY TRIP; (2) VISAS, WHICH THEY HAVE APPLIED FOR THEMSELVES; (3) FLIGHT CLEARANCE AND LANDING PERMIT. REQUEST EMBASSY UNCLASSIFIED

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APPLY FOR APPROVAL OF DAY TRIP AND CLEARANCES. INGERSOLT UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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